

Message Text

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15

ACTION SS-25

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O R 091039Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 19855

EXDIS

BRUSSELS FOR S/S

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO LONDON: PROPOSED THATCHER
MEETING

1. MRS. THATCHER REGRETS THAT SHE IS NOW UNABLE TO MEET
WITH SECRETARY, BUT ASKS THAT HE AGREE TO MEET JOHN
DAVIES, THE NEW CONSERVATIVE SHADOW SPOKESMAN ON FOREIGN
AFFAIRS.

2. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT THE SECRETARY MEET WITH
DAVIES AT 9:45 A.M. ON SATURDAY.

3. BIOGRAPHIC NOTE ON DAVIES: TRADE SECRETARY AND
CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER (WITH SPECIAL
RESPONSIBILITIES FOR BRITAIN'S EC POLICY) DURING THE
HEATH GOVERNMENT, DAVIES WAS NAMED CONSERVATIVE FOREIGN
AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN LAST MONTH, REPLACING REGINALD
MAUDLING. A RIGHT-WING TORY, DAVIES IS HIGHLY INTELLI-
GENT, ARTICULATE AND ABLE. HE HAS A STRONG
COMMITMENT TO EUROPE. DAVIES WAS MRS. THATCHER'S
ORIGINAL CHOICE AS EC COMMISSIONER TO REPLACE CHRISTOPHER
SOAMES. HOWEVER, EC PRESIDENT DESIGNATE ROY JENKINS
OBJECTED TO DAVIES' APPOINTMENT AND THE NOMINATION WAS
REJECTED BY THE LABOR GOVERNMENT. HIS POLITICAL RISE WAS
METEORIC: SIX WEEKS AFTER BEING ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT
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IN 1970, HEATH NAMED HIM TRADE SECRETARY. PREVIOUSLY

DAVIES HAD BEEN DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE CONFEDERATION OF
BRITISH INDUSTRY (CBI), THE BRITISH EQUIVALENT OF THE
NAM, AND AN OIL COMPANY EXECUTIVE.

ARMSTRONG

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